

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Tonawanda Coke Corporation - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #5
PJ1
Tonawanda Coke Corporation
0201601
Tonawanda, NY

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From: Dwayne Harrington, OSC

Date: 10/20/2018

Reporting Period: October 18-20, 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A28U	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	STATE	Incident Category:	
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/13/2018	Start Date:	10/13/2018
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	NYD088413877	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1 Incident Category

1.1 Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

Tonawanda Coke Corporation is an industrial coke plant; approximately 160 acres in an industrial area. The facility has been in operation for approximately 100 years. The 30 currently operating coke ovens have been in use since early 1960.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 3875 River Rd, Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The area is an industrial area adjacent to the Niagara River. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.25 miles away.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

There is an immediate threat of release of hazardous substances during the flaring off of coke oven gases. A full removal site evaluation will be conducted and addressed following facility shutdown.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA and NYSDEC personnel are currently on site during coke oven process shutdown. EPA is conducting air monitoring and sampling in support of NYSDEC's oversight of shutdown activities to assess public impact in the event of a release.

EPA continues the inspection of the facility, accompanied by TCC and contractors, to identify all areas of concern and determine facility operations that will need to be conducted by TCC after shutdown.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Coke oven gas sphere purging and flaring operations were completed in the morning of October 20, 2018. The sphere is empty and will be left open to atmosphere.

Air surveillance will continue for a 24-hour cycle after the flaring is complete. EPA will continue area air sampling through Sunday, October 21, 2018. No exceedances above background have been observed in the six air monitoring stations or in any of the confirmatory laboratory samples.

After that, the monitoring network will be shut down until such time as intrusive activities start onsite.

TCC personnel are currently providing 24-hour security.

On October 17, 2018, the consent to access form was signed by TCC.

All six air surveillance stations are fully operational and are located:

TCP 01 - Tonawanda Coke Plant Guardhouse – On the Southwest corner of the Plant

TCP 02 - River Road Volunteer Fire Stations – South of plant, adjoining a small residential area. Located in the side yard next to the fire station

TCP 03 - Sheridan Fire District – behind the firehouse secured to the fencing surrounding their emergency generator

TCP 04 – DEC Grand Island Boulevard Station – NE of Plant. Semi-permanent trailer established by DEC for their historic benzene monitoring (no live transmittal of data) and sampling program (once every 6 days)

TCP 05 – DEC Brookside Terrace Station - NE of Plant in a residential neighborhood. Semi-permanent trailer established by DEC for their historic benzene monitoring (no live transmittal of data) and sampling program (once every 6 days)

TCP 06 - William Kaegerbein Elementary School – NW of plant, in a residential neighborhood. Station is placed in the courtyard of the school at the request of the Superintendent to ensure the security of the equipment.

To date, no exceedances above background have been observed in the six area air monitoring stations or in any of the Summa confirmatory laboratory samples.

2.1.3 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

TCC filed for bankruptcy on October 16, 2018. ORC continues to represent EPA's interest with TCC attorneys.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Air surveillance will continue for a 24-hour cycle after the flaring is complete. EPA will continue area air sampling through Sunday, October 21, 2018.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Following shutdown and purging of the coke process, EPA will assess the potential public and environmental threats posed by the site.

2.2.2 Issues

TCC will not inform EPA how long they will remain on site to assist with transition.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	100.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	100.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

EPA is coordinating with NYSDEC and the Town of Tonawanda Water Resources Department during facility shutdown.

4. Personnel On Site

Two OSCs, one DECA member, one ERT member, 1 ERRS member and two ERT-SERAS staff are on site.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report****7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.